

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.



20-CR-00027

ROBERT NOTTO,

Defendant.

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

The defendant, ROBERT NOTTO, and the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York (hereinafter "the government") hereby enter into a plea agreement with the terms and conditions as set out below.

**I. THE PLEA AND POSSIBLE SENTENCE**

1. The defendant agrees to waive indictment and to plead guilty to a one count Information which charges a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 2252A(b)(1) (distribution of child pornography), for which the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment is 5 years and the maximum possible sentence is a term of imprisonment of 20 years, a fine of \$250,000, a mandatory \$100 special assessment, and a term of supervised release of 5 years to life. The defendant understands that the penalties set forth in this paragraph are the maximum penalties that can be imposed by the Court at sentencing.

2. The defendant understands that, unless the defendant is indigent, the Court must impose a special assessment of \$5,000 for the offense of conviction pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3014, in addition to the assessment imposed under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013.

3. The defendant acknowledges that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2259, the Court must order restitution for the full amount of the compensable losses of the victims as determined by the Court. The defendant understands that defendant will not be entitled to withdraw the plea of guilty based upon any restitution amount ordered by the Court.

4. The defendant understands that, if it is determined that the defendant has violated any of the terms or conditions of supervised release, the defendant may be required to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release, up to 2 years, without credit for time previously served on supervised release and if the defendant commits any criminal offense under Chapter 109A, 110 or 117, or Sections 1201 or 1591 of Title 18, United States Code, for which imprisonment for a term longer than 1 year can be imposed, the defendant shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and up to life. As a consequence, in the event the defendant is sentenced to the maximum term of incarceration, a prison term imposed for a violation of supervised release may result in the defendant serving a sentence of imprisonment longer than the statutory maximum set forth in ¶ 1 of this agreement.

5. The defendant has been advised and understands that under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the defendant must register and keep registration current in all of the following jurisdictions: where the defendant resides; where the defendant is employed; and where the defendant is a student. The defendant understands the requirements for registration include providing the defendant's name, residence address, and the names and addresses of any places where the defendant is or will be an employee or student, among other information. The defendant further understands that the requirement to keep the registration current includes informing at least one jurisdiction in which the defendant resides, is an employee, or is a student, not later than three (3) business days after, any change of the defendant's name, residence, employment, or student status. The defendant has been advised and understands that failure to comply with these obligations subjects the defendant to prosecution for failure to register under federal law, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250, which is punishable by imprisonment, a fine, or both.

6. The defendant acknowledges that a conviction in this action may result in the defendant's civil commitment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4248 as a sexually dangerous person. The defendant understands that a determination as to whether the defendant will be subject to civil commitment will be made initially by the Attorney General or the Director of the Bureau of Prisons at the conclusion of the defendant's term of imprisonment and that the Court will make the final determination in a separate proceeding.

## II. ELEMENTS AND FACTUAL BASIS

7. The defendant understands the nature of the offense set forth in ¶ 1 of this agreement and understands that if this case proceeded to trial, the government would be required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the following elements of the crime:

- a. The defendant knowingly distributed or attempted to distribute a visual depiction;
- b. The visual depiction was child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8);
- c. The defendant knew that the visual depiction he distributed or attempted to distribute constituted child pornography; and
- d. The child pornography had been shipped or transported using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce, or had been shipped or transported in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

## FACTUAL BASIS

8. The defendant and the government agree to the following facts, which form the basis for the entry of the plea of guilty including relevant conduct:

- a. In or about March 2017, the defendant met Minor Victim through a teen social network. Minor victim was, at the time, 13 years old and told the defendant that she was 13 years old. Minor victim resided in Phoenix, Arizona at the time.
- b. On July 28, 2017, the defendant sent the minor victim three images constituting child pornography from his computer. The first image depicts sadistic and masochist image of a prepubescent child being orally penetrated by an adult male penis. The second image depicts a sadistic and masochist image of a female prepubescent child with semen on her face. The third image depicts a female prepubescent child nude, positioned in a squatting pose, with her vagina exposed to the camera. These images constitute child pornography. These images were sent to Minor Victim to persuade, induce, entice or coerce Minor Victim to engage in sexual activity.

- c. The defendant told minor victim that the female prepubescent child referenced above was his 5-year-old sister. In addition, the defendant told the minor victim that he forced his sister to “suck him off” and drink his urine.
- d. In addition, from March 2017 through July 2017, defendant repeatedly engaged in sexually explicit conversations with Minor Victim wherein, on at least two occasions, defendant requested that Minor Victim take a picture of Minor Victim’s vagina. This conduct constitutes a pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor.

### **III. SENTENCING GUIDELINES**

9. The defendant understands that the Court must consider but is not bound by the Sentencing Guidelines (Sentencing Reform Act of 1984).

#### **BASE OFFENSE LEVEL**

10. The government and the defendant agree that applying Guideline § 2G2.2(a)(2) applies to the offenses of conviction and provides for a base offense level of 22.

#### **SPECIFIC OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS** **U.S.S.G. CHAPTER 2 ADJUSTMENTS**

11. The government and the defendant agree that the following specific offense characteristics apply:

- a. the two level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G2.2(b)(2) [the offense involved a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years];
- b. the six level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G2.2(b)(3)(D) [the offense involved distribution to a minor that was intended to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce the minor to engage in any illegal activity];
- c. the four level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G2.2(b)(4) [the offense involved the material that portrays sadistic, masochistic, or other depictions of violence];

- d. the five level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G2.2(b)(5) [the offense involved a pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor];
- e. the two level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G2.2(b)(6) [the offense involved the use of a computer]; and
- f. the four level increase pursuant to Guidelines § 2G2.2(b)(7)(C) [the offense involved at least 300 or more images].

**ADJUSTED OFFENSE LEVEL**

12. Based on the foregoing, it is the understanding of the government and the defendant that the adjusted offense level for the offense of conviction is 45.

**ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

13. At sentencing, the government agrees not to oppose the recommendation that the Court apply the two (2) level decrease of Guidelines § 3E1.1(a) (acceptance of responsibility) and further agrees to move the Court to apply the additional one (1) level decrease of Guidelines § 3E1.1(b), which would result in a total offense level of 42.

**CRIMINAL HISTORY CATEGORY**

14. It is the understanding of the government and the defendant that the defendant's criminal history category is I. The defendant understands that if the defendant is sentenced for, or convicted of, any other charges prior to sentencing in this action the defendant's criminal history category may increase. The defendant understands that the defendant has no right to withdraw the plea of guilty based on the Court's determination of the defendant's criminal history category.

**GUIDELINES' APPLICATION, CALCULATIONS, AND IMPACT**

15. It is the understanding of the government and the defendant that, with a total offense level of 42 and criminal history category of I and taking into account the applicable statutory minimum and maximum penalties, the defendant's sentencing range would be a term of imprisonment of 240 months, a fine of \$250,000, and a period of supervised release of 5 years to life. Notwithstanding this, the defendant understands that at sentencing the defendant is subject to the minimum and maximum penalties set forth in ¶ 1 of this agreement.

16. The government and the defendant agree to the correctness of the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines range set forth above. The government and the defendant, however, reserve the right to recommend a sentence outside the Sentencing Guidelines range. This paragraph reserves the right to the government and the defendant to bring to the attention of the Court all information deemed relevant to a determination of the proper sentence in this action.

17. The defendant understands that the Court is not bound to accept any Sentencing Guidelines calculations set forth in this agreement and the defendant will not be entitled to withdraw the plea of guilty based on the sentence imposed by the Court.

**IV. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

18. In the event the defendant's plea of guilty is withdrawn, or conviction vacated, either pre- or post-sentence, by way of appeal, motion, post-conviction proceeding, collateral attack or otherwise, the defendant agrees that any charges dismissed pursuant to this

agreement shall be automatically reinstated upon motion of the government and further agrees not to assert the statute of limitations as a defense to any federal criminal offense which is not time barred as of the date of this agreement. This waiver shall be effective for a period of six months following the date upon which the withdrawal of the guilty plea or vacating of the conviction becomes final.

**V. REMOVAL**

19. The defendant represents that he is a citizen of the United States. However, if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States, the defendant understands that, if convicted, the defendant may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

**VI. GOVERNMENT RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

20. The defendant understands that the government has reserved the right to:

- a. provide to the Probation Office and the Court all the information and evidence in its possession that the government deems relevant concerning the defendant's background, character and involvement in the offense charged, the circumstances surrounding the charge and the defendant's criminal history;
- b. respond at sentencing to any statements made by the defendant or on the defendant's behalf that are inconsistent with the information and evidence available to the government;
- c. advocate for a specific sentence consistent with the terms of this agreement including the amount of [restitution and/or] a fine and the method of payment;
- d. modify its position with respect to any sentencing recommendation or sentencing factor under the Guidelines including criminal history category, in the event that subsequent to this agreement the government receives previously unknown information, including conduct and statements by the defendant subsequent to this agreement, regarding the recommendation or factor; and

e. oppose any application for a downward departure and/or sentence outside the Guidelines range made by the defendant.

21. At sentencing, the government will move to dismiss the Criminal Complaint pending against the defendant under Magistrate's No. 19-mj-05230.

22. The defendant agrees that any financial records and information provided by the defendant to the Probation Office, before or after sentencing, may be disclosed to the United States Attorney's Office for use in the collection of any unpaid financial obligation.

## **VII. APPEAL RIGHTS**

23. The defendant understands that Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 affords a defendant a limited right to appeal the sentence imposed. The defendant, however, knowingly waives the right to appeal and collaterally attack any component of a sentence imposed by the Court which falls within or is less than the sentencing range for imprisonment, a fine and supervised release set forth in Section III, ¶ 15, above, notwithstanding the manner in which the Court determines the sentence. In the event of an appeal of the defendant's sentence by the government, the defendant reserves the right to argue the correctness of the defendant's sentence.

24. The defendant understands that by agreeing not to collaterally attack the sentence, the defendant is waiving the right to challenge the sentence in the event that in the future the defendant becomes aware of previously unknown facts or a change in the law which the defendant believes would justify a decrease in the defendant's sentence.

25. The government waives its right to appeal any component of a sentence imposed by the Court which falls within or is greater than the sentencing range for imprisonment, a fine and supervised release set forth in Section III, ¶ 15, above, [notwithstanding the manner in which the Court determines the sentence. However, in the event of an appeal from the defendant's sentence by the defendant, the government reserves its right to argue the correctness of the defendant's sentence.

### **VIII. FORFEITURE PROVISION**

26. The defendant, Robert Notto, acknowledges that the United States Customs and Border Protection/Department of Homeland Security has completed administrative forfeiture with regard to the assets listed below. The defendant agrees not to contest the completed administrative forfeiture of the assets below and agrees to waive his right, title and interest to any and all of the assets that were administratively forfeited. Those assets include:

- a. One HP Pavilion Computer Tower, Serial No.: 4CI61501GZ;
- b. Western Digital Hard Drive ITB, Serial No.: WD-WCC6Y7LADZ9Y;
- c. Samsung SCH-A95V Cell Phone;
- d. Apple iPhone 5c A1532; and
- e. Micro SD Card-4GB

27. The defendant agrees that the above-described property was subject to forfeiture and waives any and all statutory and constitutional rights, including but not limited to time restrictions and notice provisions with respect to the final disposition or forfeiture of the above property.

28. The defendant knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives his right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of the assets. The defendant knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives all constitutional, legal and equitable defenses to the forfeiture of these assets in any proceeding, including any jeopardy defense or claim of double jeopardy, whether constitutional or statutory, as to this criminal proceeding or any related civil or administrative proceeding. The defendant further agrees to waive any claim or defense under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, including any claim of excessive fine regarding the forfeiture of assets by the United States.

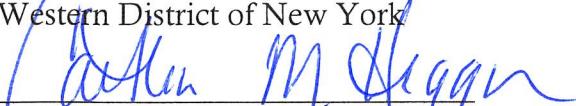
#### **IX. TOTAL AGREEMENT AND AFFIRMATIONS**

29. This plea agreement represents the total agreement between the defendant, ROBERT NOTTO, and the government. There are no promises made by anyone other than those contained in this agreement. This agreement supersedes any other prior agreements, written or oral, entered into between the government and the defendant.

JAMES P. KENNEDY, JR.

United States Attorney

Western District of New York

  
CAITLIN M. HIGGINS

Assistant United States Attorney

Dated: May 27, 2020

BY:

  
CAITLIN M. HIGGINS  
Assistant United States Attorney

I have read this agreement, which consists of pages 1 through 11. I have had a full opportunity to discuss this agreement with my attorney, Anthony Bruce, Esq. I agree that it represents the total agreement reached between me and the government. No promises or representations have been made to me other than what is contained in this agreement. I understand all of the consequences of my plea of guilty. I fully agree with the contents of this agreement. I am signing this agreement voluntarily and of my own free will.

Robert M. Notto  
ROBERT NOTTO  
Defendant

Dated: May 27, 2020

Anthony M. Bruce  
ANTHONY BRUCE, ESQ.  
Attorney for the Defendant

Dated: May 27, 2020